



RESTORATION OF THE POPULATIONS OF LARGE EUROPEAN VULTURES IN BULGARIA LIFE08 NAT/BG/278

Progress Report
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GENERAL INFORMATION



- Project duration: 5 years
- Partners:
 - Coordinating Beneficiary: Green Balkans;
 - Associated Beneficiary: FWFF;
- Target species:
 - Griffon Vulture
 - Black Vulture
 - Bearded Vulture



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AIMS AND OBJECTIVES



In line with the Action Plan for the Recovery and Conservation of Vultures on the Balkan Peninsula and Adjacent Regions

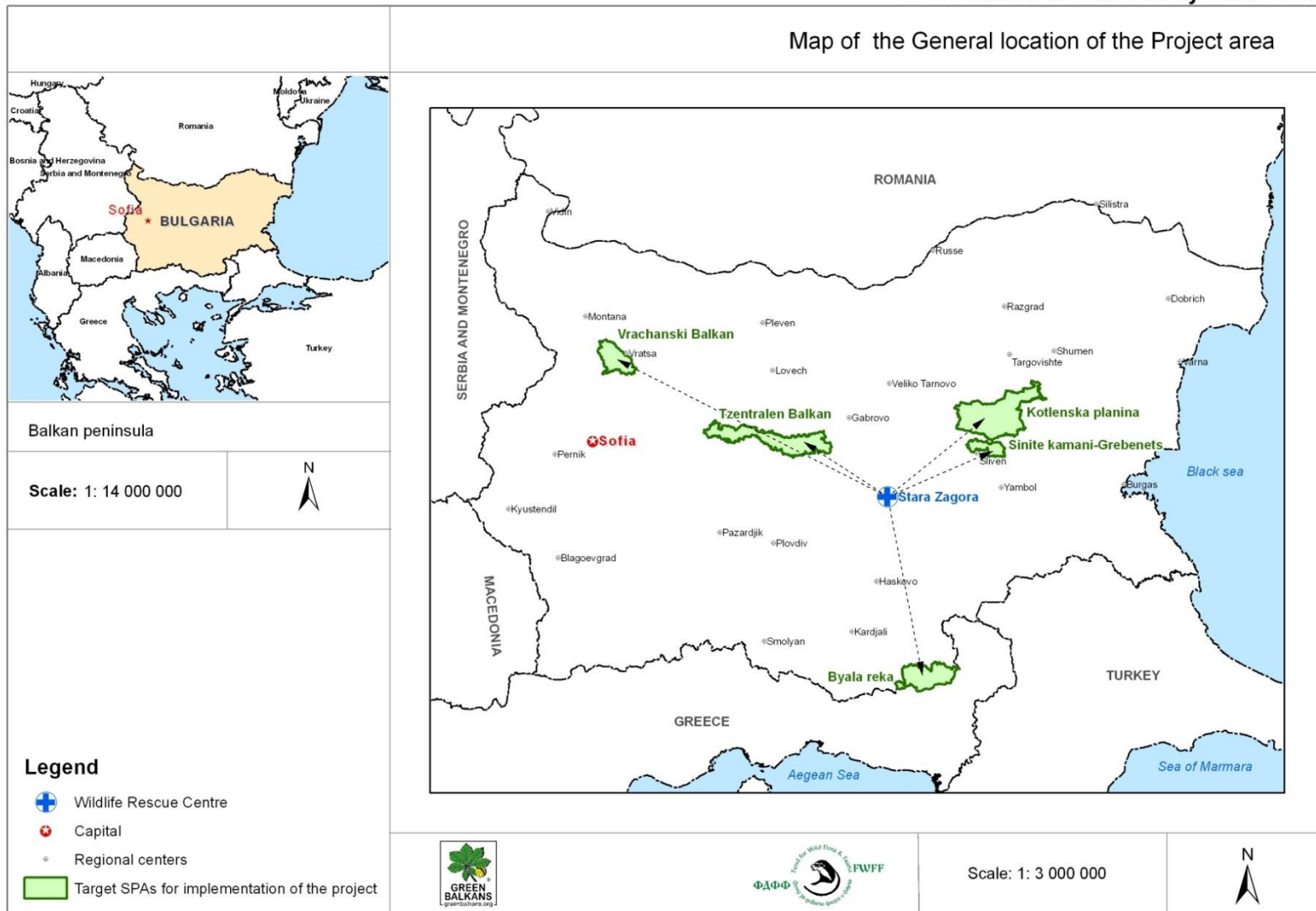
- **Direct conservation measures:**
 - **Restoration of the Griffon Vulture population in the target areas in Bulgaria;**
- **Indirect conservation measures**
- **Capacity building**



PROJECT TARGET AREAS

LIFE+ Nature & Biodiversity 2008- B2b

Map of the General location of the Project area



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CURRENT PROGRESS

- **Four adaptation aviaries** for Griffon Vultures established and maintained;
- A total of **192 Griffon Vultures and 1 Black Vulture imported** for the Balkans since 2009;
- A total of **137 Griffon Vultures released** from the four adaptation aviaries;



CURRENT PROGRESS

Data valid for 2010- January 2014

Mortality cases:

- **36 vultures confirmed dead since start of project;**
 - 4 died during transport;
 - 4 died in aviaries before release;
 - 5 died of starvation;
 - 16 died of electrocution;
 - 1 poisoned;
 - 1 hit by car (in Greece);
 - 1 attacked by foxes and 1 attacked by other vultures;

Survival rate – 137 vultures released since 2009, 25 confirmed dead following release: 82 % survival rate



CURRENT PROGRESS

- **First two subsequent breeding attempts of Griffon Vultures in the Eastern Balkan Mountains for the past 50 years (2012-2013);**
- Two of the other birds released, formed pairs and nested in the natural colony in the Eastern Rhodopes (Bulgaria);



ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

- Development of National Action Plan;
- Viability Study and Expert Assessment:



ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

○ Improving nesting habitat:

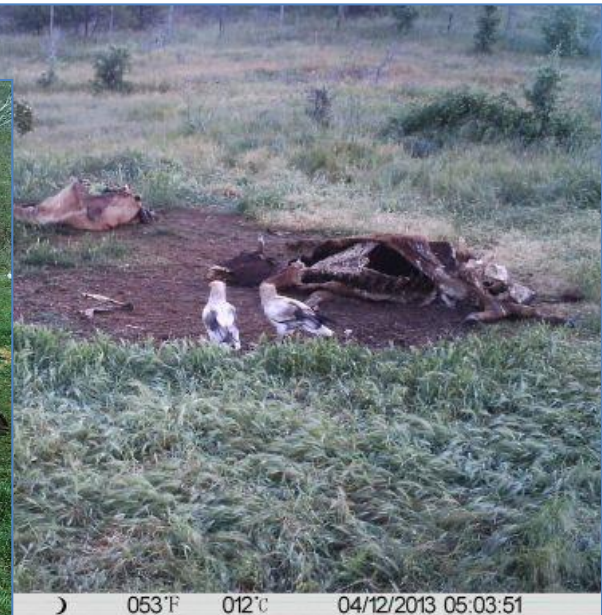
- 12 artificial nests installed:
- Mapped suitable Pine plantations for introducing sustainable forest practices;
- Initiated legal changes, including requirements for leaving particular number of old trees per aerial unit;



ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

◦ Supplementary feeding at Byala reka :

- At least 17 different Black Vultures tagged in Greece and at least four other non-tagged birds;
- Several Griffon Vultures, including tagged ones;
- Maintaining a pair of the critically endangered Egyptian Vultures;



ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

- **Captive care and breeding:**

- Maintain two female Black Vultures of Spanish and Greek origin;



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ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

Indirect conservation measures

- Minimization of threats;
 - Dissemination of dogs;
 - Examination of cases;



- Restoration of pastures and livestock;
 - Transhumance;



ACTIONS RELATED TO BLACK VULTURE

Indirect conservation measures

- Campaign with local electricity companies:
 - More than 24 isolated pylons in three problematic areas:



CURRENT PROGRESS

Black Vulture attracted to the region and its usage of the a feeding site in the Eastern Balkans confirmed for a first time in the past thirty years;



FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Completing and disseminating the Feasibility Studies;
- **Initiating reintroduction:**
 - **Minimum two release sites:** Vrachanski Balkan and Eastern Balkan Mountains;
 - **Releasing minimum 6 birds / per site / per year;**
 - Following the French methodology, using mostly translocation of fledged birds;
- Maintain captive pairs to reinforce reintroductions;
- Continuing the supplementary feedings;
- Continuing the anti-poison activities;





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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